

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of performing cell selection handoffs in a wireless communication system, wherein the wireless communication system includes a plurality of base stations in communication with ~~a at least one~~ mobile station, wherein the base stations transmit information to the ~~at least one~~ mobile station via a forward link, and wherein the base stations receive information from the ~~at least one~~ mobile station via a reverse link, and wherein each base station is capable of gating off transmissions for selected time intervals, and wherein the ~~at least one~~ mobile station is capable of determining a strongest base station, and wherein the communication system is capable of performing soft handoffs, comprising the steps of:
 - a) determining a desired set of base stations, based upon
 - (i) obtaining a threshold parameter based upon receiver needs for proper reception, and
 - (ii) comparing a sum of one or more base station signal strengths to the threshold parameter;
 - b) gating off selected base stations based on the desired set of base stations that was determined during step (a); and
 - c) performing a soft handoff.
2. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (a) comprises determining a set of strong base stations within a mobile station active set.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (a) comprises determining a set of strong base stations on a PCG-Power Control Group ("PCG") basis.
4. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (b) comprises gating off all base stations except for the desired set of base stations.
5. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (a) comprises the following sub-steps:
 - i) measuring carrier-to-interference ratios of all base stations in a mobile station active set; and

- ii) selecting a base station having a best signal to noise (E_b/N_t) to achieve a specified QoS to be a chosen base station of the desired set of base stations.
6. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (a) is performed by a mobile station.
7. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (a) comprises the following sub-steps:
- i) measuring a plurality of received pilot E_c/I_o values that represents a pilot E_c/I_o for each pilot in a mobile station active set;
 - ii) averaging the plurality of received pilot E_c/I_o values; and
 - iii) selecting a base station having a best pilot E_c/I_o value to be a chosen base station of the desired set of base stations.
8. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 7, wherein the averaging sub-step (ii) is implemented by hardware.
9. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 7, wherein the averaging sub-step (ii) is implemented by software.
10. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 7, wherein the averaging sub-step (ii) is performed by a filter.
11. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 10, wherein the averaging sub-step (ii) is performed by an IIR filter.
12. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 10, wherein the averaging sub-step (ii) is performed by an FIR filter.
13. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (b) comprises transmitting a gate off message to all base stations in a mobile station active set except for the desired set of base stations.

14. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the gate off message is transmitted via a feedback channel.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 14, wherein the feedback channel has a length of one to several ~~PCG~~ Power Control Groups ("PCGs").
16. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 14, wherein the feedback channel has a rate ranging between 200 Hz and 1600 Hz.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (a) comprises the following sub-steps:
- i) continuously determining channel condition estimate for each base station in a mobile station active set;
 - ii) continuously sorting the channel condition estimates by strength; and
 - iii) continuously determining whether a strongest channel condition estimate is greater than ~~a threshold~~ the threshold parameter.
18. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 17, wherein the determining sub-step (i) utilizes a sum of all usable multipath signals to estimate channel conditions.
19. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 17, wherein the estimating sub-step (i) averages the continuous channel condition estimate during uncertainty periods.
20. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 17, wherein the threshold parameter of the determining sub-step (iii) is defined by the following equation:
- $$T_QOS_dB = FPC_FCH_SETPT + \Delta\chi .$$
21. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 20, wherein the determining sub-step (iii) further comprises selecting additional continuous channel condition estimates until a combination of strong continuous channel condition estimates is greater than the threshold parameter.
22. (Original) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 20, wherein the determining sub-step (iii) further comprises selecting additional continuous channel condition estimates until

$SUM_PILOTS > T_QOS_dB$ occurs, where SUM_PILOTS is a combined received power from all received pilots from a desired set of base stations in a mobile station active set.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of performing cell selection handoffs as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step (b) comprises the following sub-steps:

- i) selecting a desired set of base stations to transmit during a Power Control Group ("PCG") PCG_{N+2} ; and
- ii) gating off all remaining BSs in the active set.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus for performing cell selection handoff functions~~ handoffs in a wireless communication system, wherein the wireless communication system includes a plurality of base stations in communication with a mobile ~~at least one mobile~~ station, wherein the base stations transmit information to the ~~at least one~~ mobile station via a forward link, and wherein the base stations receive information from the ~~at least one~~ mobile station via a reverse link, and wherein each base station is capable of gating off transmissions for selected time intervals, and wherein the ~~at least one~~ mobile station is capable of determining a strongest base station, and wherein the communication system is capable of performing soft handoffs, comprising the steps of:

- a) a base station selection module configured to determine means for determining a desired set of base stations by comparing a sum of strengths of one or more base station signals received by the mobile station to a threshold parameter, the threshold parameter being based upon requirements for proper reception by the mobile station;
- b) a forward link instruction module configured to prepare instructions means, responsive to the determining means, for gating off selected base stations based on the desired set of base stations that was determined by the base station selection module determining means; and
- c) a soft handoff control module configured to enable, after gating off the selected base stations, performance of the cell selection soft handoff functions means, responsive to the gating off means, for performing a soft handoff.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program executable on a ~~general purpose~~ computing device, wherein the program is capable of directing performance of performing cell selection handoff functions ~~handoffs~~ in a wireless communication system, wherein the wireless communication system includes a plurality of base stations in communication with a mobile ~~at least one mobile~~ station, wherein the base stations transmit

information to the ~~at least one~~ mobile station via a forward link, and wherein the base stations receive information from the ~~at least one~~ mobile station via a reverse link, and wherein each base station is capable of gating off transmissions for selected time intervals, and wherein the ~~at least one~~ mobile station is capable of determining a strongest base station, and wherein the communication system is capable of performing soft handoffs, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- a) a first set of instructions for determining a desired set of base stations by comparing a sum of strengths of one or more base station signals received by the mobile station to a threshold parameter, the threshold parameter being based upon requirements for proper reception by the mobile station;
- b) a second set of instructions for gating off selected base stations based on the desired set of base stations that was determined using ~~during~~ the first set of instructions; and
- c) a third set of instructions for directing performance of performing a soft handoff functions after completion of the first and second sets of instructions.

26. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the threshold parameter is based upon a quality of service ("QoS") associated with the mobile station.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the sum of base station signal strengths is a sum of signal strengths from the desired set of base stations, and the sum is at least as great as the threshold parameter.